

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Literature and Psychology undeniably intertwine within our lives as one of medium expression to interpret human (Goksen, 2015). Literary work, particularly novel, portrays social-psychological problems through the fictional characters. The common ground of a story is often to pivot in the main character's psychological issues and portrayed through his/her characterization. The manifestation of literary studies object is to entertain and to give a lesson to the reader. Psychological issues in characterizations are the main problem in the novel used in this research. *Disgrace* by John Maxwell Coetzee as the object of this research and would be examined by a psychological approach focused on the main character's malignant narcissism personality disorder.

Disgrace won the Man Booker Prize award in 1999. This novel is crucial due to the issues it brings. Coetzee has a subtle and unique way to form the value and problem in his writing. The author gives the reader an optional argument about the main character and leaves the reader to determine the main character's disposition. Due to the open-ended and varied problem in this novel, a psychological perspective can be an alternative to examine the character's reaction and the possibility of personality

disorder occurrence. For his excellence in exploring human problems through his fiction, Coetzee won the Noble Prize award in 2003 and became the first author who won Man Booker Prize twice.

In *Disgrace*, Coetzee tries to elaborate in-depth on how things are going on in South Africa by exposing the main character's malignant narcissism. To achieve his objective, Coetzee touches several severe issues and offends some parties. Some critics and reviews are offended by the way Coetzee deliver his problem in the novel. Within his writing, he is criticizing how things are dealt with in South Africa. The complexity of the main character's psychological problem is the media for Coetzee to give his reader numerous perspectives towards his role in the novel, including today's issue.

This novel's main character is David Lurie, a professor at Cape Town University. This novel is a contradiction of Lurie, and the tragedy happened to him at a late age. It presents several main issues: race, class, and gender. This novel depicts his way of thinking and differs him from the majority of people in South Africa at that time. Lurie's life turns upside down from a respectable professor into a jobless compatriot, holding onto what he believes. Even after all the bad things that happen to him throughout the novel, he is still confident that he is doing the right thing and does not seem to be able to see another rear end.

David Lurie is portrayed as an arrogant yet passionless professor who teaches Romantic Poet Literature. Lurie's relationships with the women in this novel is seen as

something remotely peculiar. His tendencies in praising himself toward women as the act of heroism in this novel are dense. At the beginning of the novel, Lurie is described to try to fill the void of his love life by using prostitution. Later on, he is stumbled on an affair with his student, which brings his life into significant changes; he is accused of rape and sexual abuse cases thus he has to leave his post at the University. The novel shows that women from different social backgrounds, which are Soraya (a prostitute), Melanie (his student), Lucy (his lesbian daughter), Bev (a vet) and some other trivial women surround Lurie. His interaction with these women indicates his unstable mental states, which later gives a harmful impact on his life.

David Lurie's characterization is exceedingly contradictory. His justification for his deeds can be assumed somewhat as his defence mechanism on his inability to behave normally. David Lurie's psychological problem is projected throughout the novel by the choices he made, from his social condition and his reaction toward the case of rape and sexual abuse he has been charged with. This particular matter about his psychological issues is the highlight of this research that is discussed further below.

1.2 The Identification of Problem

The focus of this research is David Lurie's dynamic characterization. His complex psychodynamic character give hints to the occurrence of personality disorder. His peculiar behaviour has shown symptoms that presumably lead to malignant narcissism. Analyzing his personality would provide evidence of his causes and symptoms as a malignant narcissist. The broader knowledge of malignant narcissism

are essential to examine characters trait and behavioral complex. Thus, this research identification of problem is the malignant narcissism suffered in David Lurie as the main character in *Disgrace* by J. M. Coetzee.

1.3 The Scope of Research

This research is limited to analyze the main character's psychological problem only. It is isolated to David Lurie's behaviour and his way of thinking, which embodies his presumable psychological problem, malignant narcissism personality disorder. It would be conducted on a micro-scale research to use only the intrinsic elements of the novel using Freudian theory and Fromm's humanistic psychoanalysis, particularly about malignant narcissism.

1.4 The Research Question

The writer's analysis is based on several questions:

1. What are the causes of Malignant Narcissism suffered by David Lurie?
2. What are the symptoms of Malignant Narcissism shown by David Lurie?

1.5 The Objective of Research

The comprehensive expansion into the psychological field would enrich our knowledge in taking values from literary works. The purpose of analyzing this novel is to see in-depth into the character and understands his point of view. The main objective of this research is to explain the causes and the symptoms of presumable Malignant Narcissism suffered by David Lurie as the central figure in the novel. I hope that this

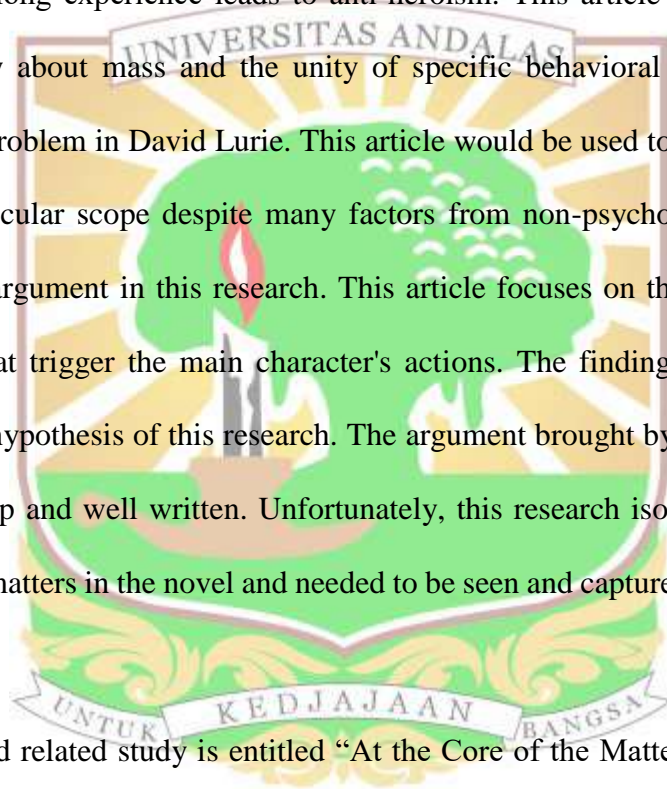
research would give an understanding of human psychology, particularly about malignant narcissism personality disorder.

1.6 The Review of Previous Studies

In order to prevent any plagiarism act, this thesis reviews some of the previous studies, which are relevant to the topic of this research. This novel is never been analyzed as an object of research in the English Department of Andalas University. Due to the chosen topic and material, these previous studies below will be used as references to help the research.

The first related study is entitled "Unresolved Psychological problem in Dennis Lehane's *Shutter Island*" by Ahmad Luthfi in 2018 from Andalas University, English Department's student. This thesis discusses the main character's psychological problem about schizophrenia and hallucinations. The theory used in this thesis are Freudian personality theory, and the analysis focused on defense mechanism of the main character's psychological problem. The following research would similarly discuss the matter and this research is useful to the writer to arrange research of psychoanalysis topic. It conveys the character development and the conflict resolution within the main character. The differences from this research with this following research are in its object, findings, and theoretical framework. This thesis elaborate at length of the analysis of id, ego and superego to resolute the hallucination, but unfortunately blurry on the causes of hallucination in the character lives.

The second related study entitled "The Mass and Powerlessness" by Françoise Neau in 2012 published in the *Journal of Psychoanalytic Studies* Paris Diderot at Sorbonne Paris Cite University. This article discusses of why David Lurie's restrain from the society in *Disgrace*. This article argues that David Lurie's problematic life is caused by the freedom that he never had in his society. The complication of the character's livelong experience leads to anti-heroism. This article points out how a Freudian theory about mass and the unity of specific behavioral act influence the psychological problem in David Lurie. This article would be used to help the research stays on a particular scope despite many factors from non-psychological related to strengthen the argument in this research. This article focuses on the symbol and the environment that trigger the main character's actions. The finding of this article is relevant to the hypothesis of this research. The argument brought by the writer in this journal are sharp and well written. Unfortunately, this research isolate the argument from sensitive matters in the novel and needed to be seen and captured carefully by the reader.



The third related study is entitled "At the Core of the Matter: J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*" from a psychoanalytical perspective by Paul Yli-Tainio in 2016 from Dalarna University. Other than discusses David Lurie's view within the Freudian concept of psychoanalysis, this thesis also focuses on the allusion of Byron that features in the novel. This thesis aims to fill the missing gap of the main character's childhood by projecting the youth from his deeds at a late age. This thesis is not targeted to find

the reason why David Lurie acts in specific ways, but to elaborate his perspective only. This thesis is useful for the writer to see the flow of the character from the psychoanalytical perspective.

The fourth related study entitled "Analysis of Emotional Paralysis in *Dubliners* in terms of Personality Structure" by Xinwei Yang and Yu Sun in 2017 published in the *International Journal of Languages, Literature, and Linguistics*, Vol. 3, No. 4. The article argues that the environment influences its people to be emotionally paralyzed. Two main characters of two short stories in *Dubliners*, Eveline and Clay, are portrayed as figures who could not restrain from their society perception. This article used Freudian theory about consciousness and unconsciousness. The id, ego and superego method is used to approach the matter. Both of the characters shown the contradictory area on the id and superego. They are argued to be emotionally paralyzed due to the constraint of the superego. Their ego becomes paralyzed and timid out of the environment influenced. This article has shown how the analysis pulls out the findings from the theory. It is function as the guideline on how this research would be conducted. The article used Freudian theory to analyze the psychological symptoms of the main character. The psychological analysis by Freudian and Fromm is sufficient to see how the plotting and the psychodynamic graphic.

The fifth related study is entitled "Malignant Narcissism: From Fairy Tales to Harsh Reality" by Mila Goldner-Vukov and Laurie Jo Moore in September 2010 published article in *Psychiatria Danubina*. This article mainly focuses on how the

literature has offered various cases in the Psychology field. This article is aimed to elaborate on the symptoms and the analysis thoroughly from a psychological perspective. It discusses specifically malignant narcissism development disorder and the treatment of the related disease. The result from this article is his distinction of the humanist aspect should have been regarded in a better way. Social deconstruction through fairy tales is dense and vile that leads the triggered society to demand a certain standard. To the extent that this research is mandatory as a clinical perspective, the result of this study shows how to analyze the behavior and symptom of Malignant Narcissism cases. However, there is no clear cut and bridging from the clinical perspectives of a patient to analyzing a character in the literature mentioned in the article. The methodology is used in the cases to conclude the presumable disorder unmatched the aim of this article. The discussion did not show the data to support the conclusion. Further study on literary studies is required to elaborate more about how literary works' character is the mirror of real-life patients.

The sixth related entitled “The Psychoanalytic Approach to Shakespeare's *Hamlet*” by Irving I. Edgar M. D in 1961 from an article in *Canadian Psychiatric Association Journal*, vol, 6, no. 6. This article mainly focuses on how one of Shakespeare's most celebrated works can be applied to psychoanalytic theory. This article aimed to emphasize the possibilities to see literary works with a different light, in this case, psychology. Dr. Ernest Jones, as the first psychiatrist to start the movement to regard literary works feature psychologically stated that it is possible to take on the

whole problem of psychogenesis in the poetic creative expression of the author. This paper argues that Psychology can bridge of dreams, daydream, and myth in which used immensely in prose. This article discussed specifically the explanation and the link of the psychological and unconscious human mind with what they are manifest. The result that can be concluded from this article is that as long as psychological theory can be applied to literary works, it is possible to analyze the literary work feature with psychology theory. This research would function as a mandatory guideline to do this research.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

This research focuses on the analysis of David Lurie's peculiar behavior. The psychological approach used to see the correlation from the characterization with the personality disorder behavior that occurs in David Lurie. Barnet and Cain say that character has two meanings, a figure, and a personality. A figure in a literary work can be either flat or round character. The flat ones are the simple ones, yet round one is the complex figure (140). The complex character analysis would lead the research towards the causes and symptoms of malignant narcissism in David Lurie.

Psychoanalysis research often roots from the Freudian concept. The development of psychoanalysis used throughout history to the present in literature. We can see the importance of psychoanalysis perspective in a literary work. Following Barnet and Cain, Lois Tyson also disembogues the father of psychological analysis,

Sigmund Freud. We can see how human behavior itself is the fact that psychoanalysis and it is not impossible to understand and meaningless in the real world (11).

Freud explains his theory in his classes as a physician and a patient. The use of words and emotion is an essential part of analyzing the psychological problem of our patient (Hall 1920:11). In literary works, the researcher needs to be aware of all the symptoms that the characters show throughout the novel. To analyze *Disgrace*, the writer applies the psychological approach based on the theory of psychoanalysis proposed by Sigmund Freud and the Humanistic Psychology by Fromm.

1.7.1 Sigmund Freud's theory of personality

Freud's theory of personality would be used to conduct the research. Known for his exploration of the unconscious realm, he gives an insight, as we are an animal that we are driven by something and that what makes us human. To Freud, mental life is divided into two levels, the unconscious and the conscious (Feist 2008:23). This theory has been applied in numerous of the psychoanalytical research. Freud was the first to literate the psychological problem into methods and renowned as the Father of Psychoanalysis. The expansion of Freudian theory is the famous id, ego, and superego. There are no significance boundaries between psychological acts. The divisions are only there to help the analysis to be conducted. This theory will be used as the primary and preliminary analysis of David Lurie's behavior.

The dynamic of David Lurie's personality would also be conducted within the Psychodynamic Freudian theory. Freud explained that there is always an explanation

that can be seen through people's actions (Feist 2008:31). Solms reports cases that defense mechanisms might occur on the patient; there are postulated neurotic drives on your brain that explain the emotion (Feist 2008:55). The drives and action shown by David Lurie in the novel would be analyzed to see his tendencies of being a malignant narcissist.

Freudian theory in this research are mandatory. Even, Fromm's humanistic psychological theory derived from Freud's personality theory. There has been numerous arguments of disagreement towards Freud theory. In the light of Freud's theory formed from patient based and field research, it is dynamic. The development of other psychiatrist are included on this thesis to frame the theory. Freud's basis of psychology function as the bridging from literary works to psychoanalysis possible.

1.7.2 Sigmund Freud's psychosexual theory

In concluding the finding, psychosexual analysis is required to complete the theoretical framework. This theory is also viral and often associated with Oedipus and Electra complex. There are five stages in this psychosexual theory, and the completion of each step is required to achieve another level of the stage (Leod 2008). If one of the scenes is uncompleted, then there will be consequences in the behavior. The development of this psychosexual stage is also involved with id, ego, and superego. It emphasizes that the growth of psychosexual development failure can cause any disorder.

There are five fixed psychological stages, which are, oral, anal, phallic, latency and genital (Leod 2008). The first two stages are the ego development time, in which the toddler learn to know their libido. The next step and the most controversial one is the phallic stage, which is the stage where the toddler completely loves their anatomical genital feature. In the case of boys, as they love their penis, it also has a fixation to their mother. Freud argues that if anything happened during this stage, it would trigger the Oedipus complex. This stage is also about identification processes as they imitate their father into the resolution of his mother fixation.

1.7.3 Erich Fromm's humanistic psychoanalysis theory

There are enormous gap and domination by Freudian theory due to the popularity throughout the century. However, another psychoanalysis criticism as non-Freudian theory, as Erich Fromm can also function to analyze a psychological problem in literary works character. Humanistic psychoanalysis view says that we have to see another perspective than from animal instinct. We can also focus on the dilemma that the role has been through (Rajan 2017:3).

Fromm's theory in the Humanistic Psychoanalysis theory would also be used to conduct the research. The approach applied from Fromm is a personality disorder, which indicates the syndrome of decay. Fromm (1981) held that psychologically disturbed people are incapable of certain things because they failed at reaching a certain point, the syndrome of growth. He discussed three severe personality disorders—necrophilia, malignant narcissism, and incestuous symbiosis. A narcissistic trait does

not necessarily damaging, but in a malignant form, it can cause themselves and others. Narcissism in pathological form concerned with grandiosity as the over self-importance, also devaluing anything other than themselves, and in dire need of admirations (Feist 2008:206).

To the extent of Fromm's theory about malignant narcissism, Kernberg's approach about malignant narcissism and distinction between malignant narcissism and antisocial personality disorder is required to analyze the causes and the symptoms of the presumable disease. Kernberg states that there is only a thin line between malignant narcissism and antisocial behavior, as malignant narcissism is the darker form of narcissism. The differences between both disorders lay on the sense of guilt and superego. It is stated that antisocial personality disorder completely disregards any moral or ethical value (2004: 20).

The theory would be used to see the syndrome decay that happens as the symptoms of malignant narcissism on David Lurie. The research-based on this theory would examine the reason for a specific behavioral act that leads to the disorder. The disorder that occurs in David Lurie would lead to the findings of this research.

1.8 The Method of the Research

The following three steps conduct this research: collecting the data, analyzing the data, and presenting the result of the analysis.

1.8.1 Collecting the data

In this research, the writer does a library research method and internet browsing to find the primary data and secondary data. The primary data, *Disgrace* by John Maxwell Coetzee, functions as the object of the analysis. The secondary data are books and articles related to the research about psychology.

1.8.2 Analyzing the data

This research is qualitative research, which applies descriptive-analytical method. To analyze the data, the writer uses Fromm's theory. There are several steps in analyzing the data; as the process of explaining any psychological problem, the descriptive method must revolve from the theory first. The writer concerns about the suitable approach that matches the causes to see the possibility of the hypothesis. The writer then finds appropriate data to a psychological problem that presumably undergone by the main character and maintain to prove the causes. Then, the writer analyzes the main character's symptoms using the theory from Fromm.

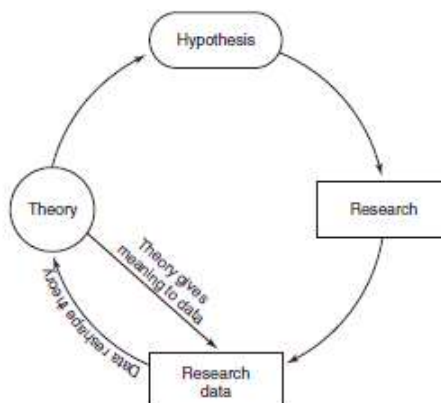
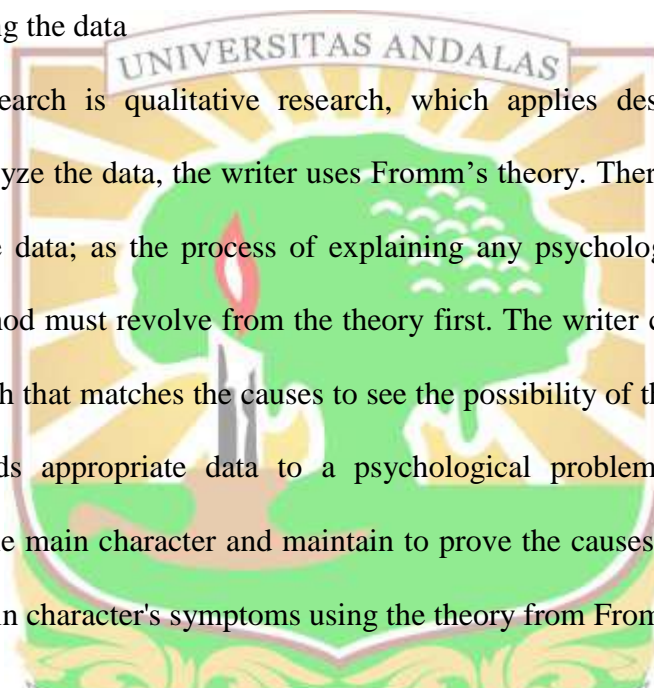


FIGURE 1.1 The Interaction among Theory, Hypotheses, Research, and Research Data.

1.8.3 Presenting the result of the analysis

The data that has been analyzed is presented descriptively. The writer explains the result of the analysis thoroughly and chronologically.

